



Over 45 years advocating for the New Haven community.  
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**Written Testimony to the Labor and Public Employees Committee In Support of:**

***SB 858: An Act Concerning Employees Who Customarily And Regularly Receive Gratuities And The Minimum Fair Wage;***

***HB 6784: An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave;***

***HB 6791: An Act Concerning Workers' Wages At Large Corporations;***

***HB 6932: An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave; and***

***HB 6933: An Act Concerning Predictable Scheduling For Employees.***

March 5, 2015

Co-Chairs Gomes and Tercyak and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important package of bills. Junta for Progressive Action has been serving Greater New Haven since 1969. We serve thousands of families every year, and have become a crucial provider of support and opportunity in the community. In addition to crucial safety net services and case management, we also provide job skills and language assistance.

These bills will go a long way to providing workers more stability and financial security for their families. Women and people of color, a vast majority of our clients, are more likely to be employed in low-wage and below minimum wage jobs, often by employers who deny them paid sick days, and in part-time jobs that lack any scheduling stability. These conditions perpetuate the cycle of poverty despite families' best efforts to work hard and make a better living.

**SB 858:** We support this bill in its concept, however it still does not go far enough. We support a complete elimination of the tip credit, guaranteeing all workers a minimum wage regardless of outside factors that often affect tips. Tipped workers are some of the most vulnerable low-wage workers in our state. Unlike other workers, the earnings of a tipped worker are influenced by their shift, the day of the week and even the weather.

**HB 6784:** Although the Paid Sick Days law passed in 2011 marked important progress, it should be expanded to protect all workers, not just those who work for larger businesses and in certain sectors. The issue of paid sick days is one that protects the entire state, not only the workers, but the customers too.

**HB 6791:** This legislation would address many workers and their families who are trying hard to make a living, but are still forced to enroll in public assistance just to make ends meet. Holding Connecticut's largest employers accountable for paying their employees a living wage will mean